

REMARKS

The indication of allowable subject matter with respect to Claims 4, 5, 7, 13, 14, 17 and 18 is acknowledged with appreciation.

In an effort to expedite prosecution, all claims have been amended to address the concerns raised in the Official Action.

The continued rejection of Claims 4, 7, 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, would be inappropriate. "Low hardness" now is defined to specify a "hardness on Moh's scale between 1 and 5". Direct support for this amendment is found in the Specification at Page 5, lines 24 to 30. The withdrawal of the rejection is urged to be in order and is respectfully requested.

The continued rejection of Claims 1 to 3, 6, 8 to 12, 15, 16, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 3,795,568 to Rudness in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 3,337,394 to White et al. or U.S. Patent No. 3,194,729 to Robinson, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,306,053 to Harrison et al. or U.S. Patent No. 5,096,993 to Smith et al. would likewise be inappropriate. The subject matter of Claims 4 and 5 was not subject to this rejection and now appears in independent Claim 1 from which all claims depend directly or indirectly. The withdrawal of the rejection is urged to be in order and is respectfully requested.

If there is any remaining point that requires clarification prior to the allowance of the Application, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter can be discussed and promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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